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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON



CABINET AFFAIRS STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Executive Registry 83-0887

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LL CABINET MEMBERS	6 🗆		Baker		
Vice President State			Deaver Clark		
Treasury Defense			Darman (For WH Staffing)	Ø	5
Attorney General			Harper		ָ ב
Interior Agriculture			Jenkins		
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RKS: Attached are Trade meeting	the minut g held Dec	es of ember	the Cabinet Council on 21, 1982.	Commerce	
Not referred to DOC. W	aiver applies				

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CABILET COUNCIL ON COMMERCE AND RADE Meeting #51, December 21, 1982
10:00 a.m., Room 248

Attendees: The Vice President, Messrs. Baldrige, Block, Donovan, Hodel, Brock, Feldstein, Wright, Trent, McNamar, McCormack, Rose, Draper, McPherson, Bolton, Fiske, Olmer, Driggs, Dederick, Morris, Harper, Porter, Darman, Garrett, Cicconi, Gunn, Cavaney, McMinn, Garfinkel, and Dr. Anderson, Ms. Dunlop, and Ms. Small

Automobile Industry Performance Review

Commerce Deputy Assistant Secretary Michael Driggs, reported on the financial condition and performance of the U.S. auto industry. He reported that domestic car sales remained flat through the second and third quarters, with some improvement in late October and November due to manufacturers' incentive programs. He noted that domestic car sales in 1982 will be at the lowest level since 1961 and that there is no evidence yet of a sustained increase in auto sales.

Import sales were down 5.8 percent in 1982. But, because import sales declined less than domestic deliveries, the import share of the market through November rose 0.7 percentage points above the 27.0 percent share for the first 11 months of 1981. It was noted that trucks were the only bright spot in domestic manufacturers' sales picture -- up 16.7 percent over 1981 through November. The import share of the truck market was 15.9 percent, down from 19.7 percent through November 1981. The industry's cash flow deficit is expected to be 4.7 billion for 1982. It was reported that U.S. auto makers are not investing capital in areas where they believe they will be unable to compete with the Japanese. This, he suggested, may point to an eventual abandonment of U.S. production of small cars.

The Council's discussion focused on the desirability of extending the voluntary restraint understanding with Japan and the long-term viability of the U.S. auto industry.

Action Taken: It was agreed that an interagency task force would be established to develop an Administration strategy for the U.S. auto industry.

State Export Financing Facilities

Commerce Assistant Secretary Bill Morris reported to the Council on proposals for state export financing facilities. The Council discussed the role the Administration should play with respect to these proposals. Secretary Baldrige suggested that the Administration establish guidelines to ensure that the programs are consistent with GATT and OECD rules governing export credits. CEA Chairman Feldstein agreed that there was a need to ensure GATT and OECD conform, but felt that the Administration should not encourage the states to initiate such programs. (The President and the CCCT decided on December 17 not to support the issuance of tax-exempt bonds by state export financing institutions.)

Cooperative Export Financing Companies (CEFCOs)

Assistant Secretary Morris recommended that Eximbank set aside a specific amount of funds, say, \$900 million, for parallel lending with CEFCOs.

Action Taken: It was agreed that the Commerce Department in cooperation with the Eximbank would maintain a small information center to guide the formation of properly designed non-federal export financing operations in order to ensure that U.S. trade obligations are not violated.

Also, in the ordinary course of business, Eximbank will provide technical assistance (possibly for a fee) and political and commercial risk insurance on a case-by-case basis.

The CCCT decided <u>not</u> to support a set-aside by Eximbank for parallel lending with CEFCOs, but agreed to have Eximbank provide parallel lending with CEFCOs on a case-by-case basis, within the limits of its resources and in accordance with its overall objectives.

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